

KALAMAZOO, MICH.

GAZETTE

JAN 29 1971

E - 58,086

S - 60,100

Ask The Opposition

The mark of a good researcher is imaginative use of unusual sources of information.

Ron Kley, a research associate at the Maine State Museum, turned to one of the most unusual recently when he needed a satellite photo of the northeastern United States for a museum exhibit.

He wrote to the space agency, the Air Force and the National Weather Service, but came up empty-handed. Only the Weather Service had ever been very interested in satellite photographs of Maine -- and their concern was restricted to cloudy days.

But Mr. Kley is a stubborn man, and it occurred to him to turn to the only people who were surely interested in nice, clear satellite pictures of the United States.

Kley wrote Moscow asking for help, and he was pleasantly surprised. The Russians replied that they had the best known satellite picture of the northeastern United States in existence, and they would be glad to send him a copy for \$100.

Kley got the money together and bought the photo -- a composite of several presumably taken by the Soviet Union's earth-circling spy satellites.

His success recalls that of a

Washington Post reporter who, several years ago, was trying to find out the number of persons working for the American Central Intelligence Agency. He inquired at the CIA, but was told the figure was classified information.

Like the Maine museum researcher, it occurred to him that such information would certainly be of concern to the people in Moscow.

So the reporter walked the couple of blocks to the Russian embassy in Washington, and politely asked if someone could tell him how many people worked for the CIA.

The Russians laughed, but promised to call Moscow.

A few hours later they called the Post and gave the reporter the information. When his story appeared, it attributed the figures on the size of the American intelligence agency to informed sources in the Soviet embassy, and noted that the CIA refused to confirm or deny their accuracy.

We can imagine the Soviet intelligence experts chuckling with glee over their vodka about both these incidents. Somehow it's nice to know that the inscrutable Ivans always spying on us have a sense of humor.